UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.46
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 27 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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COORDINATION QUESTIONS

(a) REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

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QUESTION OF DECLARING 1998 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE OCEAN

QUESTION OF DECLARING 1995 INTERNATIONAL YEAR TO OBSERVE THE ONE THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANAS EPIC

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEMES (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (i) THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: EMERGENCY RELIEF AND THE CONTINUUM TO REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.35 and L.16)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft decision E/1994/L.35, which was based on informal consultations held on draft decision E/1994/L.16.

Draft decision E/1994/L.35 was adopted.

Draft decision E/1994/L.16 was withdrawn.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (E/1994/L.36)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft resolution E/1994/L.36, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian People".

Draft resolution E/1994/L.36 was adopted.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but did not accept the preambular paragraph endorsing the results of the Washington conference. Peace in the region could be achieved only through the establishment of an independent Palestinian State through the implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions. The current agreement would allow Israeli expansion at the expense of the Arab people and the spread of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction throughout the region, in addition to continuing human rights violations.

(e) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (E/1994/L.30)

The PRESIDENT said that Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Romania had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1994/L.30.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.30 was adopted.

(i) INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (continued) (E/1994/L.24/Rev.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the United Kingdom and Spain had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1994/L.24/Rev.1.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.24/Rev.1, as revised, was adopted.

(j) CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.25)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.25 was adopted.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (A/49/169-E/1994/73)

Mr. TRUMAN (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia) said that the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967 and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan contained in document A/49/169-E/1994/73 had been requested in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 48/212. The nature and extent of the repercussions of Israeli settlements were manifest, and he hoped that the report would assist the Council in its consideration.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.34

Mr. AWAAD (Egypt) said that the text of the draft resolution dealt with the economic and social repercussions of Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people. That item had been on the Council's agenda for some time, in line with the many General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions on the matter, the most recent of which was General Assembly resolution 48/212.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91)

(a) REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES (A/49/16, part I, E/1994/4, E/1994/19)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (E/1994/98)

(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (E/1994/83)

Mrs. AGGREY-ORLEANS [Chairman, Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC)] said that the report of the first part of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) was contained in document A/49/16 (part I). Regarding the role CPC in evaluation, the programme planning cycle still governing the work programme of the United Nations had four phases. The two prospective phases of medium-term planning and biennial programming and budgeting determined what work the United Nations would carry out. They were followed by the retrospective phases of review and assessment, during which reports were presented to the General Assembly, through CPC, which permitted member States to determine whether that work had been carried out in accordance with its mandate had achieved its objectives. In the early years, CPC had restricted itself to assessing programmes in the economic and social sectors, but recently it had also requested evaluation of work in the humanitarian and political sectors. In 1993, it had conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in 1994 it had reviewed the first half of a comprehensive evaluation of the start-up phase of peace-keeping activities.

In its discussion of the annual report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, CPC had focused on issues relating to resource flows and financing for development in addition to the need to maintain the momentum generated by the Conference on Environment and Development. The great disparity between the losses sustained by countries invoking Article 50 of the

(Mrs. Aggrey-Orleans)

United Nations Charter and the assistance provided to them by the international community had also come to the attention of the Committee.

The Committee reaffirmed the importance of effective coordination within the United nations system, recognized that coordination should be based on substantive issues and emphasized the need for enhanced coordination at the country level. Its own role in the area of coordination constituted a principal element in its mandate. The Committee could assist the Economic and Social Council in the fulfilment of its coordinating functions by focusing attention on programming and setting priorities among issues.

Following a discussion of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the civilian component of peace-keeping and related missions, CPC agreed with the diagnosis of the imperfections in the staffing of that component. It stressed that further efforts should be made to enhance the security of civilian personnel participating in such operations.

In spite of considerable improvement in programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, Member States still faced difficulty in assessing the actual impact of the implementation of United Nations policy and programmes. Persistently late issuance of documentation did not help the situation, and it was the ardent hope of CPC that the Secretariat would rise to the challenge.

In conclusion, she recommended that the Council should adopt the report of CPC on the work of the first part of its thirty-fourth session and endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

Ms. THOMPSON (Director, Office of General Services), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1994/98), said that the Economic and Social Council had been seized of the issue of computer services in the United Nations since 1991. Although progress at first had been slow because the needs had to be addressed within existing resources, the goal of easy access to United Nations information systems and services was becoming a reality. An explosion of activity had occurred in the areas of CD-ROM technology and in use of the Internet, however. The Internet had the drawback that some training was required for its use and that not all Member States had access to a node.

On the coordination front, an Information Systems Coordination Committee had been formed for the purpose of identifying common standards and practices. In the future, it would be useful for that Committee to move to a biennial reporting schedule.

Mr. URANGA (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

(Mr. Uranga)

(E/1994/83). Since the early 1970s, the resolutions of the World Health Assembly had expressed concern about the increase in tobacco-related deaths at the global level. The current death toll of 3 million was expected to rise to approximately 10 million by the year 2020. Seven million of those deaths would occur in the developing world. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank estimated that 500 million persons — representing 10 per cent of the worlds current population — would ultimately be killed by tobacco. In 30 years, premature tobacco-related deaths would surpass the estimated number of deaths from AIDS, tuberculosis and complications in childbirth.

Given the mandate of UNCTAD in the area of commodities and the need to examine the economic adjustments countries would have to make as a result of the implementation of Council resolution 1993/79 on multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health, a focal point had been designated within the Conference to undertake the coordination and follow-up responsibilities resulting from the resolution. In the light of the recommendations formulated by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination had addressed a letter to all agencies and organizations concerned requesting them, inter alia, to elaborate individual plans work for their contributions to multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health.

The report of the Secretary-General summarized the replies received from those international organizations and agencies as of 30 April 1994. Of the 36 United Nations agencies and programmes contacted, 20 had replied and 6 had submitted plans of work or the equivalent. The focal point had also contacted 31 intergovernmental organizations — it had received 31 replies as of 30 April 1994 — and 60 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). All the organizations contacted had welcomed the adoption of resolution 1993/79 and expressed strong interest in cooperating with the focal point. The compilation and processing of the replies had begun in January 1994 and was still under way. All of the urgent coordination activities contemplated by the focal point had been completed or were in progress; however, it must engage in discussion with potential donors in order to obtain the necessary financing.

Following the preparation of the report, many national institutions and NGOs had submitted proposals for future action or provided input for the formulation of a multisectoral United Nations plan of action on tobacco or health. WHO, the World Bank, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, the American Cancer Society, the European Union, the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency and the International Union Against Cancer had adopted detailed policy guidelines and

(Mr. Uranga)

plans of action. The plans of action promoted tax policies for discouraging tobacco consumption in Canada and the state of California, which had already proved to be extremely successful. The tax revenue was then applied to anti-tobacco educational campaigns or medical care and research. Those organizations also promoted bans on cigarette advertising; warnings on cigarette packages; anti-tobacco legislation; technical, financial and administrative action to assist tobacco farmers in diversifying their crops; health education programmes and legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco to young persons under the age of 19.

The cross-border implications of the tobacco problem were increasingly apparent. With the expansion of trade following the successful negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), fiscal measures taken by North American and European countries to reduce consumption had been hampered by cross-border tobacco advertisements. It was hoped that cross-border advertising would ultimately play a positive role in the anti-tobacco campaign.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) expressed concern about the continuing delays in the preparation of documentation for the sessions of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC). His delegation believed that CPC should continue to meet twice a year; it should consider programme questions before the session of the Economic and Social Council and budgetary questions before the session of the General Assembly. Closer linkages must be established between the discussions which took place in CPC and the deliberations of the Council. For example, the programme aspects of topics for discussion during the coordination segment of the Council might be considered during the first part of the CPC sessions. Closer linkages must also be established between the coordination functions of the Council and CPC.

Referring to the question of international cooperation in the field of informatics, he said that the activities of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) had been useful. The decision to discontinue that Committee without first consulting Member States contravened Council resolution 1992/60. It impeded coordination in the field of informatics and access to the United Nations information system.

His delegation was concerned that the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1994/98) made no mention of the principal end-users of the United Nations information system, namely the Member States. His delegation would appreciate clarification concerning the channels through which the Secretariat would provide information to Member States, and on whether the discontinuation of ACCIS would reduce the volume of information provided. It would also be useful to

(Mr. Kudryavtsev, Russian Federation)

know how the resources which had been earmarked for the Advisory Committee would be reallocated.

Ms. BOHN (United States of America) announced that Australia, Canada, Eritrea, Estonia, Japan, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Senegal and the United States of America would be introducing a draft resolution under the agenda item entitled "Coordination questions: multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health".

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) noted that the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1994/98) said very little about consultation with permanent missions, probably because it had not occurred. He wished to know why the Secretariat had been unable to establish a consultation process when it had been requested to do so in three Council resolutions. He requested more information on the location and staffing of the central focal point for all services requested by permanent missions to the United Nations. The permanent missions in Geneva did not seem to be aware of the existence of such a focal point. He wondered why they had not been notified. Referring to paragraph 18 of the report, he asked about the reasons for the delay in installing an Internet Gopher programme in the Office of General Services. He noted that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) had installed a bopher programme the year before with no problem. Access by permanent missions to the Internet in New York was fairly limited as it was dependent on an electronic mail (e-mail) facility. He wondered why it was not possible to establish an Internet system to which permanent missions would have direct access. ITU had had no problem in that regard.

In general, the time-frames indicated in the report were "as soon as possible" or "in the process of"; it was not clear why, after three years, time-frames could not be specified. Paragraph 31 on the availability of Internet in developing countries was merely a restatement of the obvious. It would be fare more relevant to indicate what action the United Nations planned to take in order to improve access by developing countries, either through the Secretariat or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The cursory treatment of the United Nations Optical Disk System in paragraph 37 was surprising. The Secretariat should have provided information on its plans for upgrading the Optical Disk System in order to make it accessible to all Member States in the near future. The content of paragraph 49 was a recycling of the information already contained in the relevant resolutions.

Mr. MARTYNENKO (Ukraine) stressed the importance of informatics to transition countries like Ukraine, which could use the latest information technology to address economic and social problems. International assistance

(Mr. Martynenko, Ukraine)

to transition countries should focus, first and foremost, on the development of new information technology.

Mr. COSTA (Brazil) stressed that Council resolution 1993/79 on multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health highlighted the role of country-level plans in controlling tobacco consumption and the importance of mitigating the socio-economic impact of a reduction in the demand for tobacco on producer countries. His delegation fully supported the approach outlined in the resolution.

Thus for, the resolution had produced mixed results. On the one hand, a focal point for the United Nations system had been established promptly and plans had been submitted by the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). On the other hand, the various organizations had not yet collaborated to any great extent. The dearth of available resources, particularly for activities aimed at addressing the socio-economic impact of reduced tobacco demand, was also regrettable. Most distressing of all was the shift of emphasis from the national comprehensive strategies advanced in resolution 1993/79 to the comprehensive international strategies described in paragraph 84 of the report.

His delegation welcomed the fact that FAO, UnCTAD and UNIDO were prepared to help Member States deal with the socio-economic impact of demand reduction. A decrease in demand could lead to poverty and malnutrition among populations which were dependent on tobacco production. As FAO had pointed out, that was ultimately a greater health risk than tobacco use itself. His delegation hoped that FAO, UNCTAD and UNIDO would collaborate further in that area, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Council resolution 1993/79. Such concerted action would provide a sound basis for the elaboration of national comprehensive multisectoral plans in producer countries. His delegation trusted that the necessary extrabudgetary resources would be made available in that connection.

The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-fourth session [A/49/16 (Part I)], the report of the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination held on 27 October 1993 (E/1994/4) and the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993 (E/1994/19).

It was so decided.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Mr. BUNCH (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields (E/1994/88). The report had been submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. The report outlined the problem with regard to documentation from the perspective of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. It contained a summary of past action and, in paragraph 20, recommended a number of measures to the Council which could be applied flexibly. There was nothing extremely innovative or radical about those measures but he believed that they represented a step in the right direction.

Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) welcomed the specific action taken by the Secretariat in response to General Assembly resolution 48/162. It was his delegation's understanding, too, that the measures proposed in the report were guidelines and did not have to be applied rigidly. His delegation would welcome action by the Council at the earliest possible date, particularly in view of the remarks made by the Chairman of CPC on the problems caused by delays in the preparation of documentation.

Mr. DOUJAK (Observers for Austria) welcomed the report's succinctness and the action-oriented recommendations it contained. Referring to General Assembly resolution 48/162, he stressed the need to provide adequate information to Member States while controlling the number of reports. His delegation therefore supported a flexible approach to the control and limitation of documentation. It also welcomed the suggestion on consolidated reports and, in particular, on identifying areas where joint reports could be submitted to intergovernmental bodies. His delegation and others would be introducing a draft resolution relating to the recommendations formulated by the Secretariat, on which it would welcome input from other delegations.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Group of 77, commended the Secretariat for the brevity and quality of document E/1994/88. While his delegation could accept some of the recommendations contained in that report, it had reservations regarding others, in particular, the suggestion that oral rather than written reports should be mandated. It was important to have a record of certain discussions.

QUESTION OF DECLARING 1998 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE OCEAN (E/1994/17; E/1994/L.39)

Mr. WERTHEIN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) described the reasons underlying the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) of its resolution 2.5, contained in the annex to

(Mr. Werthein)

document E/1994/17, calling for the proclamation of 1998 as international year of the ocean. The integral management of coastal and ocean spaces and of the multiple uses and resources of the marine environment depended on access to information, enhanced public education and scientific awareness, as had been emphasized in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. International cooperation on ocean management also was important in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The participation of scientists, managers and national policy- and decision-makers was essential to ensure that the activities undertaken in 1998 would have a long-term positive impact.

A written statement by UNESCO containing details of its plans relating to the international year of the ocean was available to delegations in the meeting room.

Ms. MENDES (Portugal), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.39, announced that the following delegations had joined the list of sponsors: Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Sri Lanka.

It was imperative to ensure the more effective management of ocean resources with a view to attaining sustainable development, in particular within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The declaration of 1998 as international year of the ocean would foster greater understanding of the influence of the marine environment and demographic growth in coastal areas on the world ecosystem.

Her country was linked to the sea by geography and history and planned to host an international exposition in Lisbon in 1998 on "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future".

She urged the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution contained in document E/1994/L.39.

Mr. YE Dabo (China) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution under consideration. Declaring 1988 international year of the ocean would enhance the importance of the oceans worldwide, encourage increased investment in ocean-related activities and facilitate the exchange among States of information relevant issues. His country took ocean-related concerns into account in its national policies and plans.

QUESTION OF DECLARING 1995 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ONE THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANAS EPIC (E/1994/18; E/1994/L.31)

Mr. ATABEKOV (Observer for Kyrgyzstan), speaking in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, introduced draft resolution E/1994/L.31 on an international year for the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic Manas and announced that Bhutan and Costa Rica had joined the list of sponsors. He pointed out draft the

(Mr. Atabekov)

introductory words to the preamble, "The Economic and Social Council", should be replaced by the words "The General Assembly".

He emphasized that the central theme of the Kyrgyz national epic Manas was the fundamental unity, brotherhood and harmonious coexistence of all mankind, and it thus mirrored the ultimate purposes and objectives of the United Nations. The declaration of 1995 as international year to observe the one thousandth anniversary of the Manas epic would underscore the ideals of the United Nations. His delegation was grateful that UNESCO would assume the role of lead organization for the international year and looked forward to practical undertakings on its part. He hoped that the draft resolution, which had no financial implications, would be adopted by consensus.

Mr. SUTOYO (Indonesia) said that his country also had abundant national and local epics and recognized that an epic could serve as a basic reference regarding the literature, language and cultural and religious traditions of a people. Although his delegation appreciated the effort to draw the international community's attention to the epic in order to further understanding of certain ideals and values, it nevertheless had reservations regarding the submission and substance of the draft resolution.

Mr. KARSLIOGLU (Observer for Turkey), welcoming the introduction of the draft resolution, said that the Manas epic was a unique work of literature and history and advocated ideals that should be shared and understood by the international community.

Mr. WERTHEIN (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that the celebration of the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic Manas was one of the anniversaries with which UNESCO would be associated during 1994-1995. UNESCO planned a symposium on Manas in July 1995 whose participants would include scholars from various regions of the world.

Mr. GULEY (Ukraine) said that his delegation supported draft resolution E/1994/L.31.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNTIED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (continued) (E/1994/L.27 and L.40)

The PRESIDENT said that draft resolution E/1994/L.27 on the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council and draft decision E/1994/L.40 on the high-level meeting of the 1995 operational activities segment of the Council had both been the subject of broad consultations and agreement.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) pointed out that it had been agreed in the consultations that paragraph 8 (e) of document E/1994/L.27 should become paragraph 8 (b) and that the remaining subparagraphs should be renumbered accordingly.

Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said, with reference to document E/1994/L.40, that, to the best of his recollection, it was the Council's practice to decide at its organizational session which principal theme would be considered at the high-level segment of the substantive session later that year.

The PRESIDENT pointed out that the Council was breaking new ground with the operational activities segment and that it did not have to be bound in that context by the practice referred to by the United States representative.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.47
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

later: Mr. BOTEZ (Romania)
(Vice-President)

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(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(f) NATURAL RESOURCES

(g) ENERGY

(i) STATISTICS

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS

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(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (continued) (E/1994/L.27 and L.40)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of draft resolution E/1994/L.27, entitled "Operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council", and draft decision E/1994/L.40, entitled "High-level meeting of the 1995 operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council".

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.27 and draft decision E/1994/L.40.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) asked that all previously adopted amendments and corrections to draft resolution E/1994/L.27 and draft decision E/1994/L.40 be incorporated into the final texts.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1994/L.44)

The PRESIDENT introduced draft decision E/1994/L.44, entitled "Draft decision submitted by the President of the Council", concerning the dates for the 1995 regular session of the Commission on Human Rights and proposed that action on the draft decision be postponed until the next formal meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (E/1994/33-E/CN.17/1994/20, E/1994/L.45)

The PRESIDENT drew the council's attention to the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, contained in document E/1994/33-E/CN.17/1994/20, which had been mistakenly circulated before it was submitted to the Rapporteur of the Commission on Sustainable Development for review. Consequently, the Rapporteur of the Commission would have included some brief points in the following areas: changes of consumption and patterns of production; trade and environment; additional financial assistance; indicators and, given the discontinuation of the working group on technology transfer, the priority to be attributed to the question of transfer of technology.

Mr. FLORENCIO (Rapporteur of the Commission on Sustainable Development) read out the text of chapter VIII, entitled "High-level meeting", which was to be incorporated into the final version of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, as contained in document E/1994/33.

(Mr. Florencio)

He said that once the new text was incorporated, the report would be in order.

The PRESIDENT asked whether any delegation wished to comment on the text to be incorporated into the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) asked that the reference to Algeria be changed to "Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China".

Miss MONTAÑO (Observer for Bolivia) noted that any reference to July in the dates given in the document was incorrect and should be changed to May. She also requested that mention be made of the Minister for Sustainable Development and the Environment of Bolivia, who had also attended the 9th meeting held on 27 May 1994.

Mrs. BELMAR (Mexico) asked that, in the paragraph referring to the 9th meeting held on 27 May 1994, Mexico be added to the list of countries from which the Commission had heard statements by high-level officials.

Draft decision E/1994/L.45

Mr. BARAC (Romania), introducing draft decision E/1994/L.45 entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session and provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission" proposed the following editorial amendments to subparagraph (a) of the draft decision: to delete in the third line, the coma which followed the word "endorsed"; in the fourth line, to change the word "on" after "final resolution" to "of"; and in the fifth line, to delete the comma after "council". He urged the Council to adopt the draft decision as amended without a vote.

The PRESIDENT proposed that action on draft decision E/1994/L.45 be postponed until the next formal meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

(f) NATURAL RESOURCES

(g) ENERGY

The PRESIDENT (Romania) said that in the course of informal consultations, it had been agreed to postpone consideration of sub-items 6 (f) and (g) to a resumed session of the Council.

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to postpone consideration of sub-items 6 (f) and (g) to its resumed substantive session of 1994.

It was so decided.

(i) STATISTICS (E/1994/29)

Action on draft decisions contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its special session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A of the report of the Statistical Commission contained in document E/1994/29.

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the following documentation under item 6: report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-ninth session (E/1994/22); report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consultative meeting on a coalition of resources for science and technology for development" (E/1994/59); World Economic Survey 1994 (E/1994/65 and Corr.1); report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1994/69); report of the Secretary-General containing a preliminary version of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (E/1994/86); report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth special session (A/49/223-E/1994/105); report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its fortieth session [A/49/15 (Vol. I)]; report of the Population Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/1994/28); report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/1994/74 and Add.1); report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (A/49/207-E/1994/92 and Corr.1); report of the Secretary-General on the Eleventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (E/1994/56); and report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Carter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/49/179-E/1994/82).

It was so decided.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (E/1994/L.42)

Mr. COHEN (United States of America), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.42 entitled "Middle East peace process", said that Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Poland had become sponsors. He looked forward to the resolution's adoption by consensus.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91

(a) REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES (A/49/16, Part I; E/1994/4, E/1994/19)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (E/1994/98, E/1994/L.43)

(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (E/1994/83, E/1994/38)

Ms. THOMPSON (Director and Deputy to the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services (for Support Services), Department of Administration and Management, said, with regard to the report on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1994/98) that it had

(Ms. Thompson)

been perceived that existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms in informatics were costly and unresponsive to the needs of Member States. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had asked for a review of the situation and had adopted the recommendation to establish an Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC) to replace the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). ISCC had begun its work and was currently making an evaluation of all ACCIS publications, including a cost-benefit analysis. Responsibility for any publications found to be viable would be taken over by the United Nations system.

As yet, there was no single focal point for information systems because resources limitations did not allow one person to be assigned full time to outreach to permanent missions. Each unit had, therefore, taken on one aspect of information systems. For example, Conferences Services was the focal point for the optical disk system. Obviously, the situation was not satisfactory. Internet Gopher server technology was available through UNDP, and delays were attributable to information security considerations. Full Internet service on the United Nations system was expected to be in place in New York by October 1994. Electronic mail was only one of the services that would be provided.

The question of equal access by developing countries to Internet suggested the need for a programme of action to be implemented by a project agency. Twelve permanent missions in New York were connected to the optical disk system and fight were on the verge of connection. Between 10 and 20 more were expected to be connected during the current biennium. At Geneva, eight missions were part of the system. The programme's expansion had been delayed by the need for solve internal communication and security problems, but the equipment had been ordered and site remodelling was under way. The electronic documentation system was popular among Member States, and many areas of the Secretariat would also be linked to it.

Mr BOTEZ (Romania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.43

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.43, said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had become sponsors. He hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.38

Ms. BOHN (United States of America), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.38, said that Australia, Belarus, Canada, Japan Pakistan and Senegal had become sponsors. She hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (A/49/16, part I; E/1994/88, E/1994/L.41)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.41

Mr. DOUJAK (Observer for Austria), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.41, said that the sponsors believed that ways of enhancing the modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields should be proposed that recognized the need of each delegation to receive adequate information in advance, gave clear guidance to the Secretariat in the field of reporting, and allowed better use of resources within existing means. The draft resolution contained proposals that would control and limit the length of reports, allow for time constraints and financial implications, biennialize or triennialize requests for reports, and reduce the number of written reports by allowing the presentation of oral reports, where appropriate. A long-term perspective on the advantages of establishing a system of integrated reports was also proposed.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria), speaking on the behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group shared the concerns expressed regarding the length of reports and the volume of documentation. That issue formed part of the ongoing restructuring process and, in view of its complexity, he proposed that it should be taken up by the Council at its resumed session.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.48
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 48th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 29 July 1994, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (ii) COORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELDS OF PREVENTIVE ACTION AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued)

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(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEMES (continued)

(a) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.37)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-president of the Council, Mr. Mihai Horia C. Botez (Romania) (E/1994/L.37).

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations on the draft agreed conclusions and he recommended that they should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1994/L.37.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the GATT secretariat on trade and environmental matters (E/1994/43) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the UNCTAD secretariat on trade and environmental matters (E/1994/47).

It was so decided.

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (continued) (E/1994/L.33)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-president of the Council, Mr. Enrique Tejerá-Paris (Venezuela) (E/1994/L.33).

Miss FONSECA (Venezuela) said that the draft agreed conclusions were the result of informal consultations and she recommended that they should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft agreed conclusions in document E/1994/L.33.

It was so decided.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF THE 1993 COORDINATION SEGMENT OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO (ii) COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELDS OF PREVENTIVE ACTION AND INTENSIFICATION OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST MALARIA AND DIARRHOEAL DISEASES, IN PARTICULAR CHOLERA (continued) (E/1994/L.28)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.28 entitled "Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera".

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the last part of draft resolution, after the word "Africa", had been amended to read "which may include a mechanism to improve coordination among the United nations system agencies in a manner that ca enhance action on this issue and to mobilize the national, bilateral and multilateral funds required for this purpose and

(Mr. Dangue Rewaka, Gabon)

improve the efficiency of existing programmes with the same aim". The contact group on the draft resolution had agreed on the text and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.28, as amended without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, reaffirmed the Union's support for the general thrust of draft resolution E/1994/L.28. It dealt with an important subject which should remain a priority. The Secretary-General should submit a report on the effectiveness of existing modalities at the next session of the Council. He should also be requested to present options for improving coordination among the agencies of the United Nations system and should explore the possibility of enhancing the existing coordination structures. The possibility of setting up new mechanisms should be approached with caution. On that understanding, the States members of the European Union had joined the consensus on draft resolution E/1994/L.28.

Mr. BELHIMEUR (Observer for Algeria), speaking also on behalf of China and the Group of 77, expressed satisfaction at the consensus achieved on draft resolution E/1994/L.28 and the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by all delegations in that connection.

Mr. AKPLOGAN (Benin) supported the statement by the representative of Algeria and expressed his satisfaction that the draft resolution had been adopted without a vote. He hoped that that would focus the attention of the international community on the question of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued) (E/1994/L.21 and L.23)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.21, entitled "Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon". Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Gabon, India and Madagascar had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the first line of the fourth preambular paragraph had been revised to read "Reaffirming the great need to continue". The contact group on the draft resolution had reached agreement and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his country wished to join the consensus on the draft resolution under consideration.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.21, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.23, entitled "Measures to be taken following the cyclones and floods that have affected Madagascar". Gabon and India had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the phrase "Bearing in mind" had been replace by the phrase "Taking into account".

Mr. DANGUE REWAKA (Gabon) said that the contact group on the draft resolution had reached agreement during informal consultations. Paragraph 4, subparagraphs (a) and (b) had been revised to read:

"(a) To further evaluate, with the participation of the international organizations of the United nations system, the damage caused by these cyclones and floods and the medium-term and long-term impact of these disasters on the national economy and to compile information capable of promoting concerted international assistance taking into account the data already available;

"(b) To communicate the results of this further evaluation to the international community;".

He recommended that the Council should adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.23, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) thanked all delegations for the solidarity they had demonstrated towards hi country. The government of Madagascar attached primary importance to the implementation of a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for the areas affected by the disasters, in view of their negative impact on the country,s development. It hoped that the solidarity shown at the time of the emergency would continue in response to its appeals for assistance in its rehabilitation efforts. A full and rapid evaluation of the damage and its effects would be needed, and his Government anxiously awaited the assistance of the Secretary-General in that regard.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (E/1994/L.29)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution E/1994/L.29.

Mrs. VALLE CAMINO (Cuba) said that, after consultations, a number of changes had been made to the text of draft resolution E/1994/L.29 in the interests of achieving consensus. In the fifth line of paragraph 3, the

(Mrs. Valle Camino, Cuba)

phrase "necessary moral and material" should be replace by the word "appropriate" and in the third line of paragraph 6, the word "additional" should be deleted.

The last part of paragraph 10, after the phrase "the United Nations system", should read: "and in coordinating the activities of the specialized agencies in extending effective assistance to the peoples of colonial Territories, and calls upon the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to consider contributing to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the Non-Self-Governing Territories affected by natural disasters, and to look to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States for guidance concerning their roles in natural disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, taking into account the outcome of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction;".

A new paragraph should be inserted after paragraph 10, with the following wording: "Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;".

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.29, as revised, without a vote.

It was so decided.

Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said that his delegation was encouraged by the removal from the text of objectionable language which had appeared in the corresponding resolution of the previous year. While it would not block the apparent consensus regarding the text, it remained concerned by the evidence of old thinking that it still contained.

The resolution did not reflect important successes in the field of decolonization and reiterated the outdated notion which equated the process of self-determination with independence. Other options should not be ignored, especially since several of the original Territories had freely chosen them. The resolution did not recognize the benefits that Non-Self Governing Territories derived from administering Powers which conscientiously fulfilled their obligations in partnership with the people of the Territories.

The political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories remained key responsibilities of both the administering Powers and the United Nations system. The United States remained conscious of its role with regard to its three Territories and would continue to meet its responsibilities under the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Kuehl, United States)

Had the resolution been brought to a vote, his delegation would have abstained.

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1994/L.32 and L.44)

Draft decision E/1994/L.32

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision E/1994/L.32 entitled "Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights".

Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that the report of the Secretary-General, which had been requested in resolution 1994/56 of the Commission on Human Rights, had not been ready in time for the Council to hold debate as planned. He wished to draw attention, however, to the current composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights: of its 68 staff members, 39 were from the group of Western European and other States, 4 from the group of Latin American and Caribbean States, 11 from the African group and 10 from the Asian group. The developing countries, which represented two thirds of the membership of the Organization, were thus represented by only 25 staff members, or 33,2 per cent, in the Centre for Human Rights. That was a matter for some concern for the sponsors of the draft decision in the light of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, which called for the recruitment of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

Since, however, the report was a interim report, and would be submitted to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the sponsors wished to withdraw draft decision E/1994/L.32 from consideration.

Draft decision E/1994/L.32 was withdrawn.

Mr. MUCH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that its members had voted against resolution 1994/56 in the Commission on Human Rights. According to Article 103, paragraph 3, of the Charter, the paramount consideration in the employment of staff was efficiency. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 1994/56 appeared to misquote the Charter and to contradict its provisions. He was confident that the staff of the Centre for Human Rights would perform their duties with dedication, professionalism and impartiality, regardless of their country of origin. The European Union could see no justification for suggesting otherwise. The Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights could be counted on to apply the recruitment rules properly.

Mr. TELLER (Canada), supported by Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) and Ms. TOMKINSON (Australia), expressed strong support for the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General in the strengthening of the Centre and its staffing. All Member States must defer to the authority of the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General under Article 101 of the

(Mr. Teller, Canada)

Charter. His delegation had opposed the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights because it seemed to be making an assessment and it believed that Member States should refrain from intervening in the management of the Secretariat.

Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) said that the decision to call for a report on the staffing of the Centre for Human Rights had already been taken. After the Vienna Declaration, it was understood that consensus was required on human rights issues; the staff of the Centre should therefore be more balanced. It was in that spirit that the review had been requested.

Mr. LIU Xinsheng (China) said that his delegation had voted in favour of resolution 1994/56. The Charter had never been fully implemented in respect of representation at the Centre, and the matter should remain under review.

Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines) agreed with the views expressed by the representative of India. Her delegation had confidence in the ability of the High Commissioner to bring about the necessary changes at the Centre.

Mr. USUI (Japan) said that his delegation had also been opposed to resolution 1994/56 of the Commission on Human Rights. Geographical distribution should be reviewed from a system-wide perspective, not with regard to the Centre for Human Rights alone.

Draft decision E/1994/L.44

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1994/L.44 without a vote.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the following documents submitted to it under agenda item 5 (d) and (h): A/49/41, A/49/261-E/1994/110 and E/1994/117, and A/49/139-E/1994/57.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 5.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.22 and L.45)

Mr. BARAC (Romania) introduced draft decision E/1994/L.45, which had been prepared on the basis of informal consultations on draft decision E/1994/L.22. Since it was based on consensus, he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany) noted that two changes had been agreed to in the text of the draft decision: the word "on" in the fourth line of subparagraph (a) should read "of", and the commas after the words "endorsed", "Council" and "outcome" should be deleted.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision E/1994/L.45, as revised, and that draft decision E/1994/L.22 had been withdrawn.

It was so decided.

Ms. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that at the last meeting of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development her delegation had proposed the addition of an item on the agenda for the third session dealing with United Nations system coordination. It had understood that the Chairman had agreed to that proposal. He delegation would therefore like it to be noted that, under item 3 of the Commission's provisional agenda, the United States intended to address the issue of United nations system coordination in support of the implementation of Agenda 21 and that it expected that time would be allotted in the programme of work to enable interested Governments to conduct a thorough discussion of the issue.

Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) said it was his delegation's understanding that the draft decision would make possible the actual accreditation to the Economic and Social Council of the list of non-governmental organizations accredited to the Economic and Social Council which had attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and that it would nevertheless be possible, for the Open-ended Working Group on the Status of Non-governmental Organizations to review the scope of the decision within the framework of its review of all questions relating to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT proposed the following draft decision for adoption by the Council:

"The Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development proposed, in paragraph 20 of his summary of the high-level meeting of the Commission, that options be explored to modify the pattern of election of the officers of the Commission. This proposal was accepted by the Commission.

"In view of this, the Council is asked to decide to permit the Commission on Sustainable Development to explore possibilities to elect its Bureau at a time other than at the first meeting of a regular session, to allow the Bureau to give guidance to the preparatory process of the Commission's sessions.

"The Council is also asked to decide to allow the Commission to hold a brief organizational meeting to elaborate a recommendation on this matter for adoption by the Council in early 1995. This meeting could be

(The President)

held in conjunction with one of its ad hoc inter-sessional working groups to avoid financial implications."

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the following documents submitted to it under agenda item 6 (a): E/1994/43 and E/1994/47.

It was so decided.

(c) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (E/1994/L.17)

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations that no action should be taken on draft resolution E/1994/L.17.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council agreed.

It was so decided.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) E/1994/50 and Add.1 and 2)

Draft proposals recommended by the Economic Commission for Africa<

Draft resolution I

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached in informal consultations on the following amendments to draft resolution. The third preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following:

"Recognizing that during the period of the Programme of Action many African countries have made progress in fulfilling their undertakings and that further progress remains critically dependent on their access to financing from the international community, including those official and private resources in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;".

The fourth preambular paragraph should be replaced by the following:

"Noting that the first two years of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s have been affected by constrained financial resource flows to Africa;".

Paragraph 9 should be reworded to read:

"Invites the Secretary-General, in the framework of the restructuring of the Secretariat, to explore ways and means to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Economic Commission for African to fulfil its coordinating, follow-up and monitoring role in the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s."

With those amendments, he recommended that the draft resolution should be adopted without a vote.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution I, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution II

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that in paragraph 3 of draft resolution II, the words "to continue" should be inserted after the words "United Nations".

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II, as amended.

Draft resolution III

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that agreement had been reached to delete paragraph 3 of draft resolution III.

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution III, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution IV

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that the following amendments to draft resolution IV had been agreed on. At the beginning of paragraph 2, the words "Call upon" should be replaced by the word "Invites". In the fifth line of that paragraph, the words "allocate substantial resources" should be replaced by the words "contribute financial and technical resources needed". The last part of paragraph 3, after the words "industrial sector" should read: "ensuring that the implementation of the structural adjustment programmes and the programme for the second Decade are mutually supportive". In the second line of paragraph 4, the words "to take concrete steps" should be replaced by the words "to report on concrete steps taken". In paragraph 10, the words "Requests the General Assembly to allocate increased resources to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it..." should be replaced by the following: "Invites the General Assembly to further ensure that necessary resources are allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa to enable it..."

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution IV as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution V

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said it had been agreed that paragraph 10 of draft resolution V should be replaced by the following: "Invites the General Assembly to review its programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 in the spirit of its decision 48/453 with a view to permitting the delivery of activities in the subprogramme of the Economic Commission for Africa on information systems development."

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution which were contained in document E/1994/50/Add.1. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution V, as amended.

It was so decided.

Draft recommendation in paragraph 7 of document E/1994/50

The PRESIDENT took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft recommendation in paragraph 7 of document E/1994/50.

It was so decided.

Draft resolution II recommended by the Economic and social Commission for Western Asia

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said it had been agreed that a subparagraph (c) should be inserted in paragraph 5 of draft resolution II which would read: "To ensure that the transfer is financed within existing resources and primarily from extrabudgetary contributions and without prejudice to planned cost savings."

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, which were contained in document E/1994/50/Add.2. He took it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II, as amended.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.49
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 49th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 29 July 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (E/1994/L.42)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.42

The PRESIDENT informed the Council that Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1994/L.42 entitled "Middle East peace process".

Mr. COHEN (United States of America) said that Ghana, Jordan, Luxembourg, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had also become sponsors.

Mr. ELIASHIV (Observer for Israel) said that Israel welcomed and supported the draft resolution, following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 48/58. Indeed, Israel had supported the idea from its very inception. The draft resolution, of which his country was a sponsor, reflected the support of the international community for the ongoing peace process. It also reflected the historic developments in the Middle East, including the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993; the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, signed by the Government of Israel and the PLO in Cairo on 4 May 1994; the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, signed in Washington, D.C., on 14 September 1993; and the Washington Declaration, signed by Israel and Jordan on 25 July 1994. Those developments had been made possible by the ongoing peace process, started at Madrid and were based on the principle of direct negotiations between the parties without preconditions. That process was creating an opportunity for an era of peace, security, cooperation and progress in the Middle East.

The draft resolution marked another step forward in adapting United Nations resolutions to the new reality in the Middle East. His delegation hoped that further steps would be taken in order to ensure that the resolutions of the Council, the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies reflected the new positive developments in the region. Peace and development were indivisible. Economic and social development could be achieved only through cooperation, not through confrontation.

Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine) said that, while his delegation would welcome the adoption of the draft resolution, it believed that the Council was not the appropriate forum in which to consider it. While his

(Mr. Shreim)

delegation welcomed the progress achieved in the negotiations between Israel and Jordan, it had strong reservations with regard to paragraph 3 (b) of the Washington Declaration concerning the status of Jerusalem. He stressed that a number of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions considered East Jerusalem a part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden, expressed strong support for the Middle East peace process and recognized its fundamental political importance to the region. The States members of the European Union, Austria, Finland and Sweden would vote in favour of draft resolution E/1994/L.42. However, referring to General Assembly resolution 48/162 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, he said that an effort should be made to avoid duplication of debates in the Council and the General Assembly.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, stressed the purely political nature of the draft resolution. Action on such draft resolutions should be taken by the General Assembly, not the Economic and Social Council. Its submission to the Council was unprecedented. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had always advocated peace in the Middle East and the cessation of the conflicts which had claimed hundreds of thousands of Arab and Jewish lives. It could not, however, accept the fragile peace outlined in the Declaration of Principles or the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, which constituted nothing but an Israeli scheme to take everything without giving anything in return. A comprehensive peace based on justice could be achieved only through the establishment of a democratic State of Palestine in a process similar to the one which had led in the establishment of the democratic State of South Africa. Under genuine peace, the weapons of mass destruction possessed by Israel would be placed under effective international control and Israel would be prevented from continuing to develop weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles. For all of those reasons, his delegation would vote against draft resolution E/1994/L.42.

At the request of the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/1994/L.42.

In favour: Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Against: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Abstaining: None

Draft resolution E/1994/L.42 was adopted by 47 votes to 1.

Mrs. BRENNEN (Bahamas) said that her delegation, which had not been present during the voting, wished to place on record that it would have voted in favour of draft resolution E/1994/L.42.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 7.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (continued) (E/1994/L.34)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.34

Mr. ELIASHIV (Observer for Israel) said that the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by Israel and the PLO on 13 September 1993, stipulated that the issue of settlements would be discussed in the context of the permanent status negotiations.

The adoption of any resolution on the question of Israeli settlements would prejudge the outcome of these negotiations. The ongoing bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Syria were the appropriate forums for addressing the issue. It was the responsibility of the United Nations to support the Declaration of Principles, which was an important step towards peace and reconciliation. Accordingly, the question of Israeli settlements should not be dealt with in the Council. Like the new positive resolutions on the Middle East peace process, all United Nations resolutions should reflect the latest realities in the Middle East and the hopes of its peoples for a better future.

Mr. COHEN (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, noted that it was somewhat of a fashion at the United Nations to adopt resolutions on an "as-tradition-dictates" basis even when such "traditional" resolutions did not adequately reflect changing situations.

(Mr. Cohen, United States)

The parties in the Middle East had moved beyond the positions set forth in draft resolution E/1994/L.34 and the Economic and Social Council should do likewise.

His Government's views on resolutions concerning issues concurrently under direct negotiation between parties in the region were well known. Concrete achievements had resulted from those negotiations. The Council should support the negotiating process in order to allow the parties to resolve their differences directly. The draft resolution essentially echoed General Assembly resolution 48/212, which his delegation had voted against. It would also vote against draft resolution E/1994/L.34, for it opposed language which, in its view, prejudged the outcome of negotiations.

The breakthroughs achieved in the past few months, including the signing of the Washington Declaration by Israel and Jordan, had greatly changed traditional approaches to the Arab-Israeli conflict. An effort should be made to avoid focusing on issues or statements which divided and polarized. He noted that the text recognized the ongoing Middle East peace process and the signing of the first implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles by the Government of Israel and the PLO. That development, followed by the historic signing of the Washington Declaration, confirmed his delegation's view that the one-sided and outmoded language of the draft resolution before the Council was divisive and did not contribute to the negotiations. In particular, his delegation wished to point out that under the Declaration of Principles, the question of Israeli settlements and the question of the final status of Jerusalem were to be addressed in the final status negotiations.

His delegation was committed to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East, achieved through direct negotiations between the parties on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The actions of the parties in the region demonstrated that the difficult task of peacemaking was well under way. The Council should give its fullest support to that process without attempting to prejudge the outcome. For all of those reasons, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution and called upon other delegations to do likewise.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/1994/L.34.

In favour: Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

Against: United States of America

Abstaining: Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine

Draft resolution E/1994/L.34 was adopted by 46 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in explanation of vote, said that, while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, it did not endorse the paragraph which welcomed the signing of the first implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles. It did not believe that it would culminate in the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Palestinian people. His delegation was in favour of a comprehensive peace based on justice, under which Israel was compelled to implement General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. That would uphold the credibility of the Security Council.

Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine) said that his delegation had abstained, in the belief that the real solution lay in a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question. The draft resolution did not fully take into account the current realities in the region or reflect the positive changes which had recently taken place and which represented a step towards such a comprehensive settlement. Ukraine stood ready to assist in achieving a prompt solution to the question of the Middle East, including the problem of Palestine, and would support any action taken with a view to achieving a firm and lasting peace in the region and the stable economic development of the Palestinian people.

Mr. NISHIMURA (Japan) said that, while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, if believed that political questions should not be taken up in the Economic and Social Council.

Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine), while reaffirming his delegation's commitment to the Declaration of Principles, said that the United nations remained responsible for the question of Palestine until it was settled in all its aspects, including the question of settlements and refugees. Had United Nations resolutions condemning Israeli settlements as if

(Mr. Shreim)

legal and an obstacle to peace been respected and implemented, the situation might have been different. Indeed, the party which prejudged the outcome of the final status negotiations on the settlements was precisely the one which continued to expand those settlements despite its avowed commitment to the Declaration of Principles. It was not draft resolution E/1994/L.34 which prejudged the outcome, but rather the actual situation in the area.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 8.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (continued) (E/1994/L.43)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.43

Draft resolution E/1994/L.43 was adopted.

(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (continued) (E/1994/L.38 and L.47)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.47

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that draft resolution E/1994/L.47, which was submitted by the Vice-President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations, was a consensus text and he recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Ms. BOHN (United States of America) proposed that the word "in" after the words "the United Nations system focal point" in paragraph 5 should be replaced by the words "including on".

Draft resolution E/1994/L.47, as orally amended, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1994/L.47, he took it that draft resolution E/1994/L.38 was withdrawn.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (E/1994/L.41)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.41

Mr. BARAC (Romania) said that an agreement had been reached in informal consultations to take no action on draft resolution E/1994/L.41,

(Mr. Barac, Romania)

outlined "Modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields", and to transmit it, together with the report of the Secretary-General on that question (E/1994/88), to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-ninth session.

Mr. DUGAN (United States of America) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, his delegation was pleased that it would be transmitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. Although the draft resolution was currently drafted for purposes of the Council's deliberations, his delegation hoped that, when it was taken up by the General Assembly, the documentation of United Nations bodies which were not subsidiary bodies of the Council would also be considered, with a view to streamlining the documentation process throughout the United Nations system.

Mr. DOUJAK (Observer for Austria) supported the remarks made by the United States representative and said that his delegation looked forward to the debate in the General Assembly on the question.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to take a decision to transmit draft resolution E/1994/L.41, together with the report of the Secretary-General in document E/1994/88, to the General Assembly for further consideration.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt the draft decision contained in paragraph 15 of the note by the Secretary-General on changes of dates for sessions of subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council in 1995 (E/1994/118). The proposed dates for the inter-sessional meeting of the open-ended Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations were 7 and 8 November 1995 and that information should be included in paragraph (b) of the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 12.

QUESTION OF DECLARING 1998 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE OCEAN (continued) (E/1994/L.39)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.39

Mr. JERONIMO (Portugal) said that Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Cuba and Guinea-Bissau had joined the sponsors of draft resolution E/1994/L.39.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.39 was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

QUESTION OF DECLARING 1995 INTERNATIONAL YEAR TO OBSERVE THE ONE THOUSANDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANAS EPIC (continued) (E/1994/L.31 and L.46)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.46

Mr. BOTEZ (Romania) introduced draft resolution E/1994/L.46, entitled "Commemoration of the millennium of the Kyrgyz national epic, Manas, which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/1994/L.31. He recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

Mr. JUDRYAVTSEV (russian Federation) said that his delegation supported the observance of the one thousandth anniversary of the Manas epic, under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with Kyrgyzstan, in order to foster cultural understanding among nations.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.46 was adopted

Mr. ASIRDIN (Indonesia) said that his country shared many interests and concerns with the sponsors of draft resolution E/1994/L.46 and it believed that it was important to preserve cultural, historical and religious traditions which were sometimes conveyed through epics such as the Mahábhárata. His delegation had therefore supported the draft resolution. However, it was important that any event proposed to the Economic and Social Council for international observance must be globally commemorable, and in future such a parameter should be set by the Council.

Mr. ATABEKOV (Kyrgyzstan) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution and said that a firm foundation had been set for consideration of the Manas epic at the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/1994/L.46, he took it that draft resolution E/1994/L.31 was withdrawn.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 14.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT said that at the current session an attempt had been made to put into practice the new, experimental procedures proposed by the Bureau in response to the General Assembly's decisions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. He felt that the Council had implemented those procedures both effectively and efficiently; it had adopted fewer resolutions and decisions than in 1993 and, whenever possible, had discussed and acted on each subject once and once only. Delegations had engaged in true debate and increased cooperation while reducing formal speeches and disputes. True decisions, defined as actions which caused something to happen, had been taken. The Council must, however, follow-up the implementation of those decisions and develop its agenda further for that purpose.

He stressed the importance of the high-level segment and said that the Agenda for Development would be discussed again by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. He welcomed the Secretary-General's recent appointment of a senior adviser on all aspects of the operational activities and policies of the United Nations system.

It was regrettable that the participation by ministers and the executive heads of agencies had been limited and it was to be hoped that the increased efficiency of the Council would result in increased participation by the agencies. He also felt that the high-level policy dialogue had been too adversarial and that the coordination segment had brought too few items to conclusion.

In 1993, the Secretary-General had suggested that the Council should be invited to report to the Security Council on economic and social issues which constituted threats to international peace and security, and that the Council should introduce a flexible, high-level intersessional mechanism to respond in a timely way to new developments. He himself had been wondering whether the Council should not take up the issue of the recent tragedy in Rwanda but he had decided not to raise the issue mainly because, in a fast-moving situation, senior officials were better employed on the scene of the crisis than in reporting to United Nations bodies. However, in retrospect, he felt that the Council should perhaps have at least added its voice to those of the Secretary-General and other United Nations organs. The mandate of the Economic and Social Council was different from that of the Security Council in

(The President)

that it included humanitarian issues, and he proposed to hold informal consultations on the establishment of a continuing mechanism for dealing with such crises.

Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the President's comments regarding the new Council procedures. He regretted that not all delegations had been able to study the documents of the Council in depth, particularly during the last few days of the session.

After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the substantive session of 1994 suspended.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.50
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 16 September 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/1994/120)

The PRESIDENT declared open the second special session of the Economic and Social Council for 1994, which had been convened in order to address the question of the continued consultative status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), a non-governmental organization on the Roster of the Council, and drew attention to the provisional agenda (E/1994/120).

The Agenda was adopted.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATION WITH THE COUNCIL (E/1994/L.48)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to draft resolution E/1994/L.48, submitted by the delegation of the United States of America, entitled "Suspension of the consultative status of the International Lesbian and Gay Association with the Economic and Social Council".

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his Government recognized the very valuable contribution made by non-governmental organizations to the work of the United Nations and wanted them to participate more readily in the work of the Council. At the same time, their participation in the United Nations system carried with it certain responsibilities and standards. Such organization which applied for consultative status had to provide sufficient data on themselves and their member organizations to ensure that their purposes were compatible with those of the Charter.

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) had been granted consultative status with the Council in July 1993. Press reports had subsequently revealed that ILGA had an affiliate, the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), which promoted paedophilia, a practice against which there were legal, moral or cultural prohibitions in most States. There had been broad concern over that issue in his country. The United States Government had been working with ILGA on the question since October 1993 and had made clear its intention to seek suspension of the Association's consultative status if NAMBLA or other groups which advocated or condoned paedophilia remained members of ILGA after its annual conference in June 1994.

At that conference, ILGA had expelled NAMBLA and two other pro-paedophilia organizations from its membership and had adopted a resolution stating that groups or associations whose "predominant aim" was to support or promote paedophilia were incompatible with the future development of ILGA. Although the expulsion of the three groups and the adoption of the resolution had been positive steps, the United States was concerned that the ILGA resolution permitted groups which supported or promoted paedophilia as something less than their "predominant aim" to retain membership.

(Mr. Marrero, United States)

Following its own independent review of ILGA affiliate organizations, his Government had learned that other such organizations which might condone or promote paedophilia had remained members of ILGA even after the June conference and it had drawn the Association's attention to a group which sought to promote ILGA paedophilia. ILGA officials had replied that they did not have the means or capacity to screen all affiliated members or to determine the goals and objectives in every case and had no information on the group in question. A recent letter from an ILGA official acknowledged, however, that the group in question was, indeed, a member of the Association. Information obtained about that group established to his delegation's satisfaction that it promoted, endorsed or sought the legalization of paedophilia.

His Government was forced to conclude that ILGA could not provide convincing assurances to the Council that there were no other organizations in its membership which promoted, condoned or supported the legalization of paedophilia. Accordingly, his delegation felt that the Association's consultative status with the Council should be suspended until such time as ILGA could provide such assurances. The responsibility lay with ILGA, he hoped that that Association would apply for the reinstatement of its consultative status when it was ready to provide the necessary assurances regarding the aims of its members. His delegation's proposal had noting whatsoever to do with gay and lesbian rights in general or with ILGA as an advocate for those rights in particular.

Following the submission of draft resolution E/1994/L.48, a number of delegations had put forward various suggestions which improved the text, and his delegation had incorporated those suggestions in a revised draft resolution circulated to the members of the Council as an informal document. He drew attention to the changes that had been made to the preambular paragraphs and read out the three new operative paragraphs.

Mr. SY (Senegal) said that he preferred the original text of draft resolution E/1994/L.48 and did not understand the changes incorporated in the revised text. His delegation had no instructions regarding that text, which, moreover, had been submitted only in English.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his delegation understood the concerns expressed by the representative of Senegal and assured him that the changes had been based on suggestions made by other delegations to enable ILGA to present its views and work with the Council. The revised text set forth a fairer procedure and contained a time-frame for consideration of the matter.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that his delegation shared the views reflected in the draft resolution and believed that its adoption would serve as a warning not only to the organization in question, but also to all other organizations whose activities were not in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. For that reason, his delegation also believed that the fourth preambular paragraph should be retained since in its original wordings it referred to non-governmental organizations in general and not solely to ILGA. While the proposed revisions did not affect the substance of the issue and therefore posed no problem for his delegation, he wished it to be understood that the adoption of a text which had not been translated into the other official languages and circulated as an official document should not set a precedent for the future.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria) agreed with the final point made by the Russian representative. He expressed the hope that any future decisions to suspend the consultative status of a non-governmental organization would be taken first by the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and then submitted to the Council for approval.

Mr. SY (Senegal) said that, while his delegation had no wish to delay the adoption of the draft resolution, it noted that there was no comparison between the fourth preambular paragraph in the original text and the new sixth preambular paragraph. The former was not addressed to a particular organization but enunciated a general principle and his delegation felt strongly that it should be retained. It would not, however, block the will of the majority.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that his delegation had been among those which proposed the deletion of the fourth preambular paragraph, as it believed that the content of the paragraph was adequately covered by the reference in the third preambular paragraph to Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). That resolution set forth a number of principles to be applied to non-governmental organizations. On the one hand, it would be invidious to single out just one of those criteria yet, on the other hand, there should be no ambiguity as to which activities of ILGA were contrary to the purposes and principles of the Organization.

Ms. MURUGESAN (India) said that, while her delegation would prefer to retain the fourth preambular paragraph in the original text, it could agree to the proposed revisions.

Mrs. ESPINOSA (Mexico) said that, in the light of the explanation given by the representative of Ireland, her delegation believed that it was important to be more specific about the reasons for the Council's decision to suspend the consultative status of ILGA. For that reason, her delegation proposed that the final preambular paragraph of the revised text should be reworded to read:

(Mrs. Espinosa, Mexico)

"Deeply concerned about questions which have been raised about whether member organizations or subsidiaries of ILGA may promote or condone paedophilia, contrary to international human rights standards and therefore to the spirit, purposes, and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Mr. WISSA (Egypt) said that, while he agreed with the representative of Ireland that resolution 1296 (XLIV) contained adequate safeguards, it would be useful to reinstate the fourth preambular paragraph in the original text, in order to reinforce those principles.

Mr. FITSCHEN (Germany) suggested that, in the third preambular paragraph, following the reference to resolution 1296 (XLIV), wording should be added along the lines of the fourth preambular paragraph in the original text.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) proposed that the third preambular paragraph of the revised text should be combined with the fourth preambular paragraph of the original text and should read:

"Recalling its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968 on arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, which reaffirms, inter alia, that the aims and purposes of non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that, in a spirit of flexibility, his delegation had no objection to the compromise proposed by the representative of Ireland, based on the suggestion made by the representative of Germany.

Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that his delegation could accept the Irish proposal, provided that the word "Recalling" was replaced by "Reaffirming" and the word "reaffirms" was replaced by "stipulates".

Mr. SY (Senegal) said that the words "to hold and intersessional meeting before the end of November 1994" in paragraph 2 of the revised draft resolution should be deleted.

Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that paragraph 3 of the revised text should be deleted and replaced by paragraph 2 of the original text, with the addition of the words "through the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" following the phrase "Invites the International Lesbian and Gay Association to apply".

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would need a specific mandate from the Council to hold a special meeting on the question and it would therefore be better to include a specific reference to the date of such a meeting.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that the Council should not prejudge the decision of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations by using the word "reinstatement" in paragraph 1. The word "action" would be preferable.

Mr. SY (Senegal) said that he saw no reason for scheduling in 1994 a meeting to be held in 1995.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that it was important for the draft resolution to indicate that the meeting would be held as soon as possible after the necessary information was provided.

Mr. WISSA (Egypt) with the delegation of Ireland. Paragraph 3 should be retained in its current form.

Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that a possible solution would be to retain paragraph 3 of the revised draft and to omit the words "before the end of November 1994" in paragraph 2.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should have the possibility of holding an intersessional meeting and of reporting to the Economic and Social Council at its next substantive session.

Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that the suspension of an organization's roster status was a sanction and there should therefore be no urgency in reinstating that organization until the reason for the imposition of the sanction had been removed. The Council's next substantive session would therefore be the most appropriate time to review the question.

The PRESIDENT said that there was nothing in the draft resolution that would prevent ILGA from being reinstated after the required information had been provided and the appropriate action taken by the Council.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that the procedures set out in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) concerning the imposition of sanctions against an organization must be respected and the organization must be allowed to defend itself. That was why the language in paragraph 2 should make it clear that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would have the authority to meet as soon as it had received the information requested.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his delegation was also concerned about the question of fairness and due process and would have no interest in prolonging the suspension of ILGA if the required assurances were provided by the organization. He therefore wished to propose that the word "Requests" in paragraph 2 should be replaced by the word "Authorizes".

Mr. SY (Senegal) supported the proposal of the United States of America and further proposed that the words "as a mater of priority", which had no practical meaning, should be deleted.

The PRESIDENT said that there seemed to be consensus on the use of the word "Authorizes" at the beginning of paragraph 2.

Mr. BIGGAR (Ireland) said that his concern had been to ensure that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations could meet when it deemed appropriate. He would not insist on retaining the specific time-frame and the reference to priority in paragraph 2 of the revised text provided that that was clearly understood.

The PRESIDENT said that there seemed to be agreement among the members of the Council. it had been proposed that the third preambular paragraph should be amended to read: "Reaffirming also its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968 on arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations, which stipulates, inter alia, that the aims and purposes of non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,". Mexico had proposed that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the phrase "international human rights standards and therefore" should be inserted after the phrase "contrary to". In the operative part of the revised text, the Russian Federation had proposed that the word "reinstatement" should be replaced by the word "action" in paragraph 1. It had been proposed that the first four lines of paragraph 2 should read "Authorizes the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold an intersessional meeting in order to carry out an inquiry into whether any ILGA member organization...". Paragraph 3 would remain unchanged. He took it that the Council wished to adopt the revised text of draft resolution E/1994/L.48, as amended.

It was so decided.

Mr. FERNANDEZ PALACIOS (Cuba) said that, while his delegation supported the decision just taken by the Council, it felt that it must comment on the circumstances and procedures which had led to it. It was surprising that the Council, which had delayed two weeks in dealing with the tragedy in Rwanda, had required only 48 hours in order to meet at the request of an influential member which implicitly threatened to withhold payments of its dues to the regular budget of the Organization if a decision taken by the United Nations was not reversed. That policy of virtual economic blackmail continued to be absolutely inadmissible since it set dangerous precedents that might compromise and paralyse the future work of the United Nations. Cuba also felt that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in accordance with its mandate, should have considered the question under discussion before the Council took a decision on the matter. Nevertheless,

(Mr. Fernandez Palacios, Cuba)

his delegation welcomed the amendments made to the text of the draft resolution.

Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that she supported the suspension of the consultative status of ILGA in order to enable the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to ascertain whether ILGA-member organizations or subsidiaries promoted or condoned paedophilia. The Council's original decision to accord consultative status to the Association had been in accordance with the principles and regulations that governed the granting of such status to other non-governmental organizations. The Association's basic aim of combating discrimination and human rights abuses against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation was fully consistent with those regulations and basic human rights principles.

Her delegation had been dismayed, however, to discover that the Association's membership included some organizations which were known to support or advocate paedophilia, which was totally repugnant to the basic principles and values which the Council and its subsidiary bodies were committed to uphold. Although her delegation welcomed the measures taken by ILGA to address the problem at its annual meeting in June, it was clear that the Association's consultative status could be reinstated only if and when it had demonstrated conclusively that it had taken all necessary steps to ensure that such groups were excluded from its membership. In the light of the exceptional circumstances surrounding the case, her delegation was anxious to maintain the integrity and openness of the Council's procedures for granting accreditation to non-governmental organizations. The situation under consideration had underscored the importance of the work of the open-ended working group on the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations. She urged all members of the Council to participate actively in that exercise.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded the work of its second special session.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.